ANNUAL REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION in *Ireland*, for the Year 1865-66.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN BARON WODEHOUSE, LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL-GOVERNOR OF IRELAND, &c. &c. &c.

WE, "the Commissioners of Education in Ireland," constituted by an Act of Parliament passed in the fifty-third year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, and in obedience thereto, respectfully submit to your Excellency a General Report of the Proceedings of the Board since their last Report.

The Schools of Royal Foundation, as regards the Schools themselves, as well as the Estates from which they respectively derive their Endowments, being the most important of those vested in us, claim our first notice to your Excellency.

At Armagh Royal School, where scarlatina had broken out, and where the pupils had been dismissed previously to the date of our last Report, we beg to state that we subsequently caused a thorough cleansing and purification of the buildings to be made, and that the School was re-opened in the month of August, and the attendance of the pupils soon afterwards resumed.

At Dungannon Royal School, the number of pupils in attendance having much increased, we have been obliged to extend the arrangements for their accommodation; and we have the satisfaction to report to your Excellency that this Royal School continues to maintain, as is evinced by the success of the pupils educated there, that high reputation which it has reached under the guidance of its present Head Master. And we beg to state that since the date of our last Report we have repaid to the Master another instalment of the large amount heretofore advanced by him for the extension and improvement of this Establishment, which is reported to us to be now in a most creditable condition.

At the Enniskillen Royal School, the attendance of pupils, both resident and daily, continues to be very large; and we have again found it necessary to incur a considerable outlay in erecting new School and Class Rooms, and in making alterations in the buildings, which are of a very extensive nature. Our architect has reported that all these works have been executed in a very satisfactory manner; but that in order to make the establishment more complete, other works have become necessary, in consequence of the alterations and extensions above alluded to. The undertaking these latter works has not, however, been as yet decided upon by us.

At the Cavan Royal School, beyond the fact that we have caused such outlay to be made as was reported to us to have become necessary, there is nothing calling for any special notice from us to your Excellency.

At

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At the Banagher Royal School, it having become known that the present Head Master had been nominated by Government to a benefice, but that in consequence of some legal difficulty he had not, as yet, been put in possession of it, and had not resigned the Mastership of Banagher School, which he holds under patent from the Crown, the attendance of pupils has considerably fallen off; this inconvenience to those resident in that locality will, it is hoped, soon be overcome by the resignation of the present Master, and the appointment, by your Excellency, of a successor to his post. And we may state to your Excellency that we resolved to establish at this school certain money prizes, which have been found to act so beneficially at Raphoe Royal School.

The Raphoe Royal School, although placed in a remote and not very thriving locality, continues through the exertions of the Head Master steadily to improve its reputation; and the Report presented to us by an eminent scholar, who, at our request, conducted the examination for the school prizes annually granted by us, speaks in highly complimentary terms of the instruction and answering of the competing pupils.

The Carysfort Royal School, which is situated in a mountainous part of the County Wicklow, shows no feature calling for special report to your Excellency.

The Reports presented annually by us have so frequently pointed out the great value and importance of the Royal Scholarships founded and endowed by us, that it may be sufficient now to state that these valuable exhibitions are held by pensioners and sizars only, fellow commoners not being eligible to them; that they can be obtained solely as the results of a rigid competitive examination held by Fellows of the University; that they become forfeited unless the holders obtain in each year of their academic course a certain amount of University honours fixed by us, and that consequently the struggle to obtain, and the diligence and scholarship required for retaining them, have been productive of most satisfactory results. Many of those who had been amongst our Exhibitioners are now holding positions of eminence in the public service, both abroad and in this country. The course of examination for election to these Exhibitions has from time to time been much enlarged by us, and is, to a certain extent, varied every year. And we beg to append to this our Report a copy of the most recent orders made by us on this subject. We further beg to submit to your Excellency's notice the following table in reference to those now holding Exhibitions founded by us:

	£.			£.	
A. Robinson	40	per annum.	R. C. M'Kell	40	per annum.
C. Faussett	20	"	S. Woodhouse	50	"
H. Tracey	30	"	R. Ringwood	30	"
M. Armstrong	30	"	W. A. Leech	50	"
E. P. Riddall	50	"	J. MacIvor	50	"
J. Gray	30	"	J. B. Hutton	30	"
J. Stanley	30	"	J. G. Gibson	50	"
H. B. Leech	50	"	G. Wright	30	"
W. Colquhoun	50	"	H. Norman	50	"
C. Kough	50	"	G. Hetherington	30	"
R. C. Christian	30	"	M. H. Little	50	"
W. Erskine	50	"	T. Gordon	30	"
T. H. H. Crossley	50	"	F. Pollen	30	"

Referring

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Referring to the Schools of Private Endowment connected with this Board, we have to report that that of Midleton, which had fallen into an unsatisfactory state, is now in a flourishing condition, under the care of its present Master, who had formerly held a Royal Scholarship on the Dungannon foundation. A Report presented to us by the local Governors of this School, after a Visitation very recently held by them in the Schoolhouse, gives a highly gratifying account of the management of the School and of the establishment generally, recommending at the same time, certain outlay, which we have determined to make, on the premises.

At Ballyroan and Navan, which are Privately Endowed Schools, vacancies have occurred in a Mastership and Undermastership respectively. Some delay in making appointments has taken place in consequence of legal difficulties in ascertaining the rights of certain parties as Patrons. We have reason to believe that all difficulties are now removed, and that the deeds of appointment will shortly be transmitted to us. It may be right to state that these Establishments have not been closed during the vacancies referred to.

The Endowed Schools of Tullyvin have, in consequence of certain regulations made by us, and of the superintendence given by the local Managers, become of much more benefit than heretofore to those residing in that part of the County Cavan.

Of the other Schools of Private Endowment in connection with this Board, we do not feel called on to make a special Report; but we may state that in all cases of Schools, either of Public or Private Endowment, where there are funds under our control, the Schoolhouses and premises are kept by us in good and satisfactory repair.

Of the Estates which constitute the Endowments of many of the Schools, those of the Royal Schools are much the most important and extensive, requiring under our control the constant care and attention of the respective local Agents in whose charge they are placed: and we beg to report that, generally speaking, the Estates are in a very satisfactory condition, and the tenantry peaceable and well conducted.

On the Dungannon Royal School Estate, the Schoolhouse which we resolved to erect for the children of the tenantry, has now been reported by the architect in charge to have been completed to his satisfaction; and we hope soon to be able to open a School there.

On the Cappaghloughlin Estate, we have been unable as yet, to carry out the partition of certain bog lands as had been agreed upon by us and by the deceased proprietor, and referred to in a former Report; but it is expected that the delay is merely temporary, and that the arrangements will be completed before our next Report.

The Diocesan School question generally, has been so frequently brought by us under the notice of the Executive, that we merely beg to state that the appointment recently made by your Excellency to the Mastership of the District Diocesan School of Kilmore, Raphoe, and Clogher, will it is generally believed

exercise

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exercise a very salutary influence on this hitherto unsuccessful Establishment. And that the Elphin, Clonfert, and Kilmacduagh District Diocesan School at Sligo is, we are happy to be able to report, likely to become successful under the care of its present energetic Master, who has been enabled to induce the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, in whom the temporalities of the diocese of Elphin are vested, to restore to the School that Endowment which, for so long a series of years, had been enjoyed by the Masters at Elphin, but which they had at first refused to sanction on the removal of the School from Elphin to Sligo, both towns being in the same diocese.

All which we respectfully submit to your Excellency as our Report.

(signed)	MAZIERE BRADY, C.	(L.S.)
	FRANCIS BLACKBURNE.	(L.S.)
	RICHARD MACDONNELL.	(L.S.)
	WILLIAM GIBSON.	(L.S.)
	ROBERT SHAW, Bart.	(L.S.)
	J. G. PORTER.	(L.S.)
	J. D. FITZGERALD.	(L.S.)

Wm. Cotter Kyle, LL.D., M.R.I.A.,
Secretary.

Clare-street, 26 May 1866.

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EDUCATION (IRELAND).

ANNUAL REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION in *Ireland*, for the Year 1865–66.

(Presented pursuant to Act of Parliament.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
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